



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Original

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Received May 23 2003

To: 02-277

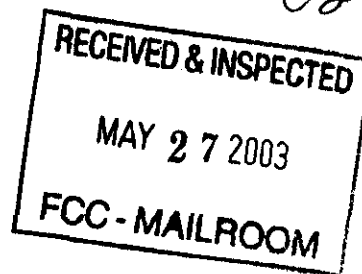
29 ex parte notices

To: Chairman / Commissioners

31 Letters

39 pages

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



02-271

Friday, May 09, 2003

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

MAY 28 2003

Distribution Center

Dear FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps:

I was very sorry to miss you at the Public Forum on The Future of Media and Democracy in Philadelphia that was held on May 7th. I am very thankful that you have made yourself available to meet the public and examine more closely the issues surrounding media ownership monopolies.

As a mother of three children and a citizen who works locally on quality of life issues, I am writing to ask you not to relinquish the FCC's remaining controls over the communications industry. This is indeed a quality of life issue. I believe, as I think you do, that it is the FCC's primary role to protect the rights of consumers. As a citizen and consumer, I oppose the domination of the public's media sources by a few multinational corporations. Indeed, these same multinational corporations have also monopolized the billboard industry. Philadelphians often find themselves battling for the preservation of their scenic character against corporations who have the media at their disposal. As a result of this conflict of interest, these media giants choose not to broadcast any information about this issue on their radio, cable and TV stations. Fortunately, there is some media still available in our city.

Government regulators have unwittingly betrayed the public trust by handing over our radio, broadcast and newspaper industries to these few corporations and diminished our ability as citizens to learn about local, national and international events from a variety of quality sources. I urge you to strengthen, not repeal, the few remaining rules that prevent near total concentration of ownership. Ownership restrictions that, for example, keep a single television network from owning stations that broadcast to more than 35 percent of the nation's homes or a single company from owning more than eight radio stations in the same market, are crucially important if we are to protect our nation from the very real dangers of media monopolies.

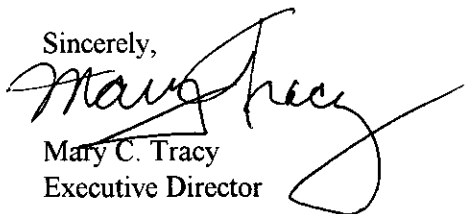
A free, diverse and vigorous press is a necessary bedrock foundation for a functioning democracy. In recent decades, responsible news coverage and the presentation of a broad range of political views have become increasingly threatened. Corporate chains now control nearly all radio and television stations. Massive budget cutbacks for news departments have resulted in puffery not news coverage, removing discussions on important world and national events and dulling awareness and interest in world affairs.

It is unacceptable to believe that cable and Internet can replace traditional channels. Many people, including low-income citizens, do not have access to cable and Internet and depend on the regular spectrum of channels. However, even in cable and Internet, we find the same few names dominating the information we receive on a daily basis. I believe that it is the FCC's responsibility to defend the rights of consumers not corporations, and to err on the side of public protection.

I am asking you to stand up for our rights as Americans to enjoy a free marketplace of ideas that is not controlled by the quest to please advertisers. I beg you to support a free, diverse and independent press by limiting media ownership consolidation. I look forward to receiving your response to my concerns.

Again, I thank you for coming to Philadelphia and hope that our concerns will be conveyed to your colleagues on the commission and that they will vote in a way that benefits the greater good of citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Tracy", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Mary C. Tracy
Executive Director

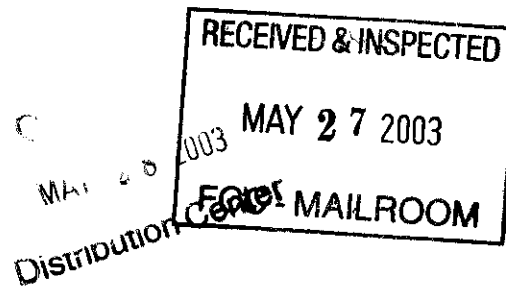
02-277

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

804 Lakeview
Port Huron, MI 48060

May 21, 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Consumer Information Bureau
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554



Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed changes in media ownership rules that you will put to a vote on June 2nd. By allowing horizontal monopolies and increased maximums of market shares, the changes--if passed--will decrease competition, decrease the diversity of viewpoints available to the public, and threaten democracy. If passed, the new rules can pave the way for fascism. They are anti-competitive, anti-free market, and anti-American.

I understand that despite the major media corporations' failure to adequately cover this issue, you have received tens of thousands citizen comments, nearly all of them opposing this change. Please attend to these voices and to the organizations on both the right and left sides of the political spectrum from the NRA to Moveon.org, and to the cities of Seattle and Chicago, and the State of Vermont—all of whom have urged you not to sell out the public trust.

The power to control the content of television and radio equals the power to control the country. This is a very grave threat. Please be real patriots and protect the American public interest.

Sincerely,

Jackie Jablonski

02-277

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 21, 2003

Michael J. Copps, Member
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554



Confirmed

MAY 28 2003

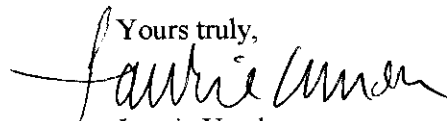
Distribution Center

Dear Mr. Copps:

I have been following with great concern the debate about the June 2nd FCC meeting to vote on allowing consolidation of media into a few large media conglomerates.

I am against any further consolidation of media, I think there is already far too much consolidation. We hear & see the same voices & persons expressing the same point of view on our radios & televisions.

A free & diverse media is vitally important in a free society. I believe that the proposed consolidation is a danger to the free & open exchange of information, one of the hallmarks of a free society.

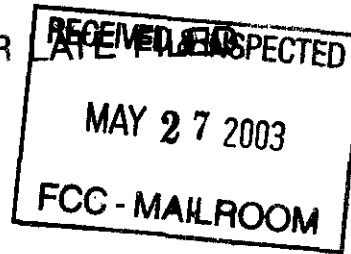
Yours truly,

Laurie Umeh
2560 Renwick St.
Oakland, CA 94601

**I believe you have been one of the dissenting voices & I very much appreciate your speaking out against this proposal.

02-277

6075 Pollard Ave.
East Lansing, MI 48823

EX PARTE OR



May 19, 2003

Confirmed
MAY 28 2003
Distribution Center

The Honorable Michael J. Copps
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Copps,

I am writing you to urge you not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that prevent media monopolies.

If the proposed "broadcast ownership rules" are adopted, independent voices in cities across the United States of America could be snuffed out by huge media corporations. The changes would allow giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation.

These media conglomerates that are in support of the changes are the same that have, in the past, attempted to use their power to keep opposing viewpoints off the air. If these changes were to take place, it would give them even more power to keep opposing views off of the air and out of the newspapers, hindering free speech in our nation.

It is essential that the American people are allowed to maintain access to more than one point of view. Please ensure that the broadcast ownership protections remain in place so that healthy political debate in our country can continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea M. Faes".

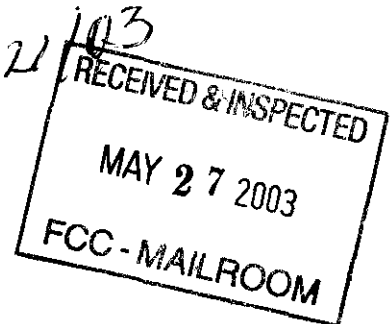
Ms. Andrea M. Faes

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Virginia L. Douglas
133 Brandston Ave.
Elyria, OH 44035-3931

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmer
MAY 28 2003
Distribution Center



RE: Docket No. 02-277 Don't abandon media safeguards!

Dear FCC Commissioners,

I strongly urge that the FCC abandon its plan to end long-standing and critical safeguards that have served as an important "check and balance" system to help ensure diversity of media ownership. Under the proposal you are considering, one company in a community will be able to own the newspaper, several TV and radio stations, the cable system, and the principal Internet access company. There will be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide. This will very badly damage true media diversity and competition. A competitive and diverse media is absolutely essential to ensure an informed citizenry and a healthy and vibrant democracy.

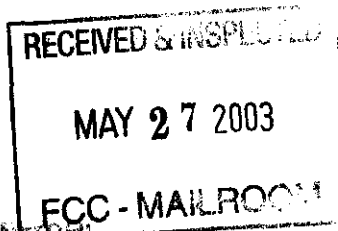
Eliminating these last remaining protections of the public trust would constitute a complete abandonment of the FCC's mission to ensure that our airwaves, which are owned by all Americans, are used in a manner which ensures the diverse range of voices and opinions needed in a healthy democracy. Loss of these protections would constitute a huge and unacceptable giveaway of public resources and political power to a few large and powerful media companies.

Further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues. Americans depend upon the media to bring us information that will allow us to make the informed choices necessary for the well-being of our nation and our future.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I urge you to reject the current proposal to abandon the last remaining controls on media consolidation. Instead, I strongly urge you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Most sincerely,
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia L. Douglas".
Virginia L. Douglas

May 20, 2003



~~Confidential~~

MAY 28 2003

Distribution Center

Hon Kathleen Q Abernathy
Commissioner
Federal Communications Comm.
445 - 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Abernathy,

I understand that you are reconsidering the rules that prohibit monopoly ownership of broadcast media in individual markets. This proposal causes me great concern, in that I am absolutely convinced that allowing a single corporate entity to completely dominate a local market would inevitably lead to even more biased news reporting than we have today. I have personal experience being interviewed on-camera by local TV reporters. The experience confirmed beyond any doubt my contention that, in spite of their protestations to the contrary, news reporters frequently decide the essential content of stories before they even go out. They merely look for confirmation of their pre-conceived notions and edit the reports to be consistent with those notions. I know many people who share this viewpoint -- many from their own personal experiences.

My concern arises out of many years of experience comparing news reports from different sources -- from the Vietnam war (I was there) through 33 years in the business community. This country has anti-trust laws because we learned that too much concentration of economic power inevitably results in abuse. The same principle applies to the news media. To think otherwise is to be incredibly naive. Anyone who thinks we can have fair and balanced news reporting in an uncompetitive environment is living in a dream world. I urge you to continue the prohibitions against monopoly ownership of broadcast media outlets. To do otherwise would be to open the door to corporate (and possibly government) abuse of the worst kind. Competition is the only antidote!

Sincerely,

Jim Sullivan
P.O. Box 3138
Renton, WA 98056
(H) 425-271-4821
(B) 425-226-3322
E-mail: toolmanjim@attbi.com

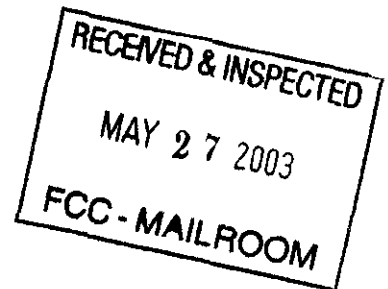
Confirmed

MAY 28 2003

Distribution Center

08-217
May 21, 2003
6719 E. Malcomb Dr.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
480-922-9766

Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington D.C. 20554
by U.S. Mail



re: media concentration proposals

Dear Commissioner Abernathy:

I am encouraged by Commissioner Adelstein and Copp's May 13, 2003 joint press release calling for further public airing of media concentration proposals.

It is hard to believe, but heartening, that two commissioners have some regard for the citizen, rather than continuing on as donkeys for their corporate masters. Will you attend the hearings, because I have something to tell you.

I have written you previously. It does not take a genius to know that the citizenry's communication within itself has been terribly injured by seizure of the airwaves by the big, bigger and biggest oligopolies. These oligopolies are increasingly in lockstep with the biggest human-rights abuser and lawless organization in the world -- our Government. If you had attended the public hearings, you would have heard this and more.

What I want to bring to your attention is the overall misdirection of the FCC.

Check out your Strategic Plan: It is not a plan to improve the citizenry's communication within itself or with others. It is an economic plan, to promote "investment", "restore stability", "highest and best use" and encourage "growth and rapid deployment". The plan's "promote competition" means "promote oligopoly". The latest proposal under this plan promotes economic concentration, not competition -- fewer, bigger corporations to compete cross-media with fewer and bigger "competitors".

You should be promoting dissemination of information to citizens, not the economic strength of the organizations that are supposed to do the disseminating. In communication, bigger does mean better.

Proof Of The Pudding: The unregulated internet is the best source for real news. The internet is the source the regulated media turn to when they do research. In other words, Adam Smith's free market laws apply to the dissemination of information as well as to the dissemination of more conventional "products". Totally unregulated, micro-cap internet sites have totally succeeded in disseminating information.

Well, not "totally," because the normal citizen doesn't have time to surf the internet for the many important issues. In the real world, the citizen relies on the evening television news or morning paper. It is these medias that the FCC is turning into mindless, obedient, oligopolistic, corporate dribble-drabbles.

Look at the diversity and depth of information presented in the micro-cap web sites such as commondreams.org and counterpunch.com compared to the repetitive, Hollywood-propaganda drivel of the majors. Size sure didn't help the majors. It seems to corrupt them and convert news into entertainment. The majors are driven by economic, not public service, goals. If they could make money and if it were legal, they would present child porn 24/7. What they are doing now is worse -- they are choking the citizenry's ability to communicate within itself.

I stand with certain extraordinary citizens: Nancy Snow, Robert McChesney, Ian Boal, Ben Bagdikian and Matt Vidal. We stand with Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Theodore Roosevelt. But this is not enough. We need commissioners who will work and think for the citizens, not the corporations.

McChesney says that Adelstein and Copps have demonstrated "a degree of backbone rarely found". What about yourself?

This is your time on the center stage of real life. You can be an inspiration to your family and a hero to your friends. Or you can be a stooge for the power elite. One does not become a hero the easy way. As a citizen, I call upon you to do your duty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Shoen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael L. Shoen

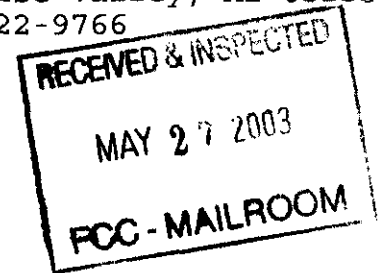
cc: John McCain

02-277

Confirmed

MAY 28 2003

May 21, 2003
6719 E. Malcomb Dr.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
480-922-9766



Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington D.C. 20554
by U.S. Mail

re: media concentration proposals

Dear Commissioner Martin:

I am encouraged by Commissioner Adelstein and Copp's May 13, 2003 joint press release calling for further public airing of media concentration proposals.

It is hard to believe, but heartening, that two commissioners have some regard for the citizen, rather than continuing on as donkeys for their corporate masters. Will you attend the hearings, because I have something to tell you.

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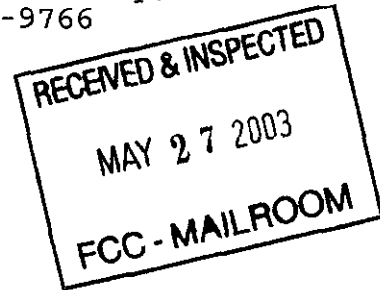
Confirmed

MAY 28 2003

Distribution Center

May 21, 2003
 6719 E. Malcomb Dr.
 Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
 480-922-9766

Jonathan Adelstein
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th St., SW
 Washington D.C. 20554
 by U.S. Mail



re: media concentration proposals

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

Thank you so much for your May 13, 2003 joint press release with Commissioner Copps calling for further public airing of media concentration proposals.

It is hard to believe, but heartening, that two commissioners have some regard for the citizen, rather than continuing on as donkeys for their corporate masters.

I have written you previously. It does not take a genius to know that the citizenry's communication within itself has been terribly injured by seizure of the airwaves by the big, bigger and biggest oligopolies. These oligopolies are increasingly in lockstep with the biggest human-rights abuser and lawless organization in the world -- our Government. You have heard this and more through the public hearings on these issues.

What I want to bring to your attention is the overall misdirection of the FCC.

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MAY 28 2003
Distribution Center

Michael Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington DC 20554



Dear Mr. Copps,

I am against the proposal (that will come to a vote on June 2nd) to further deregulate the media. I feel that it will limit not expand our choices, as ownership will dwindle to a few rich corporations with their own agendas. This subverts democratic principles of free speech.

Specifically, I am against any changes in the cross-ownership rules. TV stations and newspapers are the public's principal sources of influence. Allowing a few companies to own most of these, would limit local voices and also diverse opinions. Instead, I predict the public would be subject to news that would be "dumbed" down, nationalized and in the worst possible case, one-sided.

Clear Channel, owner of 1,200 radio stations (about one half of all radio stations), epitomizes the problems of deregulation. Radio has been ruined and both the public and democracy suffers as a result. Limiting ownership of radio stations would be my proposal for your commission.

I also object to the FCC holding only one formal meeting in Virginia regarding these proposals and applaud your efforts to encourage debate on these issues, hold meetings across the country and solicit public opinion.

These proposals will affect the public's airwaves. It is the FCC's responsibility to protect the public's interests and that of a free democracy. I hope you will prevail. Thank you.

Sincerely,

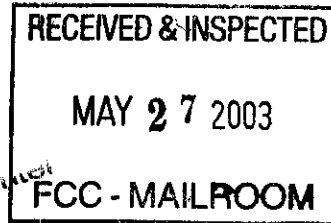
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo Senica".

Mary Jo Senica
918 Polk St.
Albany CA 94706

02-277

The Honorable Michael J. Copps
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed
MAY 28 2003
Distribution Center



Dear Mr. Copps,

21 May 2003

As an active voter, I need to have an understanding on both sides of an issue. I would not appreciate the media having the ability to deny me the information that I need to make a educated decision when it comes time to voting on important issues.

It is my understanding that many of the corporations that are now lobbying the FCC to relax these ownership rules already have a known track record in attempting to keep opposing viewpoints off the air.

I implore you - please do not to relax the broadcast ownership rules that protect American citizens from media monopolies.

The proposed changes would make it possible for giant media conglomerates to gain near-total control of radio and television news and information in communities across our nation. Thereby giving one side of an issue unfair advantage come voting time.

I want to hear more than one point of view on important issues. Therefore, for the sake of our democracy and our freedom, I urge you to continue the broadcast protections that, for decades, have helped to ensure a healthy political debate in our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip B. Relich".

Phillip B. Relich
12730 Mariner Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99515
Cell: 907-223-1732
Fax: 907-929-1470

MORTON BARROWS
35-1701 River Drive South
Jersey City, N.J. 07310

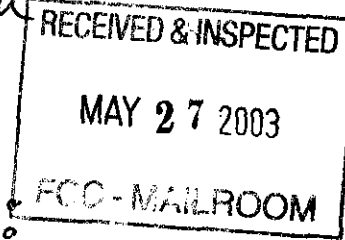
Confirmed
MAY 28 2003

Distribution Center

02-277

May 16, 2003

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Federal Communications Commission
455 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554



Dear Commissioner Abernathy:

Since deregulation of the media and the initial relaxation of media ownership limits, I have noticed a decline in diversity and quality of news reporting, analysis and commentary, as well as in the general quality and variety of programming provided to the public in my area.

In my view, the FCC's proposal to increase current ownership limits of TV networks, to maintain the archaic distinction between UHF and VHF to further suppress diversity and to allow one organization to own both a broadcast station and a newspaper in all but very small markets would, if adopted, profoundly undermine the democratic freedoms and liberties guaranteed by our Constitution.

I do not understand what compels the FCC to rush to vote (on June 2, 2003) on a proposal that could have major devastating and far reaching consequences to the very foundations of our Democracy... A proposal that until recently seems not to have come to the attention of most Americans.

Nor do I understand claims that current ownership rules stifle competition and curtail profits. It seems that media conglomerates have huge profit margins and enjoy the free use of most of the Nation's air waves.

May 16, 2003

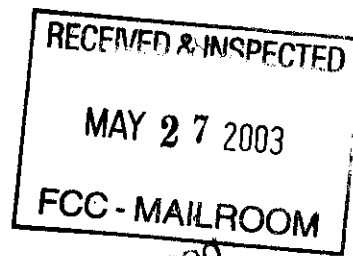
Accordingly, I strongly request The FCC to postpone its vote until the public has sufficient time to study the FCC's proposal, its possible consequences and to express its views.

In this connection, I urge the FCC to circulate its proposal to the public for a reasonable period of time, together with an objective, non-partisan analysis of its pros and cons and an invitation to submit comments to the FCC for its consideration. The results of these public comments should be summarized and made available to all before the FCC votes.

The major issues in the FCC's proposal are about diversity, objectivity, choices and quality made available to all Americans by the media. It should not be about making huge media companies larger, more profitable and more in control of the news and programs made available to Americans.

Sincerely,
Morton Berman

02-277



May 21, 2003

Jonathan S. Adelstein, Member
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Received
MAY 28 2003
Distribution Center

A rectangular stamp with a double border. The text is arranged in three lines: "Received" at the top, "MAY 28 2003" in the middle, and "Distribution Center" at the bottom.

Dear Mr. Adelstein:

I have been following with great concern the debate about the June 2nd FCC meeting to vote on allowing consolidation of media into a few large media conglomerates.

I am against any further consolidation of media, I think there is already far too much consolidation. We hear & see the same voices & persons expressing the same point of view on our radios & televisions.

A free & diverse media is vitally important in a free society. I believe that the proposed consolidation is a danger to the free & open exchange of information, one of the hallmarks of a free society.

Yours truly,

Laurie Umeh
2560 Renwick St.
Oakland, CA 94601

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie Umeh". Below the signature is the printed name and address.

02-277

May 21, 2003



Confirmed
MAY 28 2003
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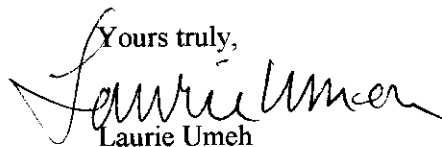
Ms. Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Member
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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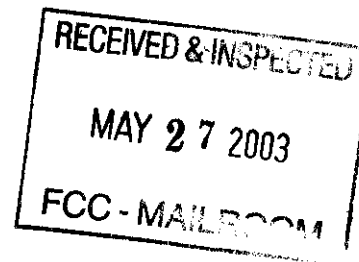
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Yours truly,

Laurie Umeh
2560 Renwick St.
Oakland, CA 94601

02-277

May 21, 2003



Kevin J. Martin, Member
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

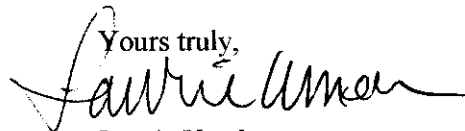
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2560 Renwick St.
Oakland, CA 94601